

# Joshua Tree National Park

## Wildflower Report



Updated March 6, 2015

Weekly wildflower reports are posted on the park website, <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/blooms.htm>, throughout the peak season (typically mid-February through early May). Add your observations and photos of wildflowers to the Joshua Tree National Park Wildflower Watch project using the free app iNaturalist, or check it out online at <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/joshua-tree-national-park-wildflower-watch>.

### Black Rock Canyon

Trails starting from  
Nature Center



Sarah Jane Pepper

Joshua Tree Poppy!  
*Eschscholzia androuxii*



Within weeks the area of Black Rock Campground may have ground-hugging patches of color. Already, Joshua Tree tops (*Yucca brevifolia*) are showing blooms. The list of annual flowers is growing: Joshua Tree Poppies! (*Eschscholzia androuxii*), Rock Cress (*Arabis boechea*), Forget-Me-Nots (*Cryptantha barbigera*, *C. pterocarya*, *C. mycrantha lepida*, *C. circumcissa*), Baby Blue-Eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), Tansy Mustard (*Descurainia pinnata*), Desert Parsley (*Lomatium mohavense*), Filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), Tidy-Tips (*Layia glandulosa*), Stiff-Haired Lotus (*Acmispon strigosus*), Woolly Daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia tessellata*), Chia (*Salvia columbariae*), and Pale Primrose (*Camissoniopsis pallida*), Wild Cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*), and White Fiesta-Flower (*Pholistoma membranaceum*).



White Fiesta-Flower  
*Pholistoma membranaceum*

### Jumbo Rocks Campground

Including Skull Rock Trail



Desert Almonds (*Prunus fasciculata*) are blooming widely in the area. Less common are Freckled Milkvetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus*) (photo left), Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), Three-Leaf Sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), Rock Pea (*Acmispon rigidus*), Turpentine Broom (*Thamnosma montana*), Mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*), and Tansy Mustard (*Descurainia pinnata*).

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**Wilson Canyon to  
Ocotillo Patch**  
Pinto Basin Road



A few *Datura (Datura wrightii)* (photo left) have started to bloom, along with Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), Bush Peppergrass (*Lepidium fremontii*), Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), Starvine (*Brandegea bigelovii*), Thick-Leaved Ground-Cherry (*Physalis crassifolia*), Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), Globe-Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*).

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**Porcupine Wash**  
Pinto Basin Road



Creosote Bushes (*Larrea tridentata*) are starting to bloom. The photo is a Carpenter Bee at Creosote. Also look for Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), Starvine (*Brandegea bigelovii*), Stiff-Haired Lotus (*Acmispon strigosus*), Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), and Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*).

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**Cottonwood Canyon**  
Cottonwood Spring Road



Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*) are in bloom at mile-post 33. (photo, left, is a Great Purple Hairstreak on Chuparosa) With a walk, one might see Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), Starvine (*Brandegea bigelovii*), Desert Globe-Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Canterbury Bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), Rock Pea (*Acmispon rigidus*), Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), budding Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), Coyote Tobacco (*Nicotiana obtusifolia*).

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**Let Them Grow**

Leave wildflowers undisturbed for others to enjoy. Joshua Tree was first established as a national monument in 1936 to protect desert vegetation that was being carried away and planted in Los Angeles gardens. Today, help us continue in our mission “to preserve unimpaired” the beautiful plants of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts: don’t pick wildflowers.